

unblemished carpet of red bishee barnee bees (as ladybirds are called locally) covering the roads and pavements. Barry Franklin, from Derby, said: 'I've never seen anything like it. They're all over the place, you just can't escape them. I don't usually mind ladybirds, but this is just making me uncomfortable'. And Jane Hood, from Clacton, said: 'My two young children are sitting in the car because they're frightened, and we're about to get away from Wells'."

Late July-early August 1994. "2-3 mile stretch on the coast between Heacham and Hunstanton. Thousands flying everywhere. On a 16-metre long section of sea wall, 13 000, mainly 7-spots, were counted." (Richard Rockcliffe)

5 August 1994. At Hunstanton: "I parked my car near the Old Lighthouse. On the ground were very many stationary 7-spot ladybirds (20-40 per square foot of turf or tarmac). Later, walking back towards town, I found ladybirds as thick as chipping on a newly dressed road. There could have been a million." (H. Shelton)

From *The Bristol Evening Post*, 9 August 1994. "A village near Bristol has been invaded by a swarm of ladybirds. The streets of Severn Beach are running red with tens of thousands of the insects. Villagers said it is the largest invasion since the drought year in 1976."

Alan Paine reported reading, on the board of sightings at the Landguard Nature Reserve/Bird Observatory for 14 August 1994: "Huge arrival of ladybirds". No indication of numbers or species was given.

In addition we received these reports of events before the Survey.

"I remember visiting our small coastal town of Southwold when I was five years old (1964), and the car, us, and all in this one spot by the sea were covered with ladybirds." (Carmela Robinson).

May/June 1982. "While on holiday in France, at Sables d'Or, Brittany, we saw at the edge of the sea, coming in on the tide and walking up the beach, rows and rows of ladybirds. They were on the water being washed in, and many had managed to walk quite a distance up the beach (opposite to the lemming syndrome)." (Gillian Siddy)

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Leiophora (Arrhinomyia) innoxia (Meigen) (Diptera: Tachinidae) parasitizing the ground-hopper *Tetrix undulata* (Sowerby) (Orthoptera: Tetrigidae).—I collected an adult female *Tetrix undulata* (Sowerby) and a larva on Arbrook Common, Esher, Surrey on 6.v.1992 and retained them isolated in individual containers with a view to photography. The female died c. 10.v and a dipterous puparium was noted in the container shortly afterwards. A male *Leiophora innoxia* Meigen emerged 25.v.1992. No exit hole was visible; the neck membrane was intact. Presumably the parasite emerged from under the pronotal extension above the abdomen. The similarity of this structure to a beetle's elytra may have some bearing on why a parasitoid previously recorded from the flea beetles *Halticus* should attack a ground-hopper.—R. W. J. UFFEN, 4 Mardley Avenue, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0UD.